

Willow Springs Sunday Worship 9:30 am,
Lent 3, March 20, 2022 Masks required.

From earning to receiving

Simulcast on Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4743450556>

Meeting ID: 474 345 0556 Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Hosted by Elaine Good

Focus As we seek God's way, we move from believing that we must earn our nourishment, our privileges, even our identity as God's children, to an understanding that abundant life is a gift from God to all.

Welcome and Call to Worship

Leader: Together we seek the way of God,

**People: whose ways are not our ways,
whose thoughts are beyond our thoughts.**

Leader: Today we accept God's invitation to the feast,

**People: where there is water in the desert
and delightful food to share.**

Leader: As we worship, we receive the abundant gifts of God

People: without money and without price.

All: So let us praise God and sing for joy.

Prayer

Leader: Your ways, O God, are higher than our ways.

People: Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts.

Leader: We seek God's ways. (*Snip the cords.*)

All: Lord, move us from feeling we must earn your love to receive and give your grace to ourselves and others.

Songs

Lenten prayer of confession (Isaiah 55 adapted)

Leader: Holy One,
we seek you while you may be found.

People: We call upon you while you are near.

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God,
for our thoughts are not your thoughts
and our ways are not your ways.

People: Forgive us for acting as if we must earn your love. Open us to receiving your love as a gift.

Leader: As we walk with Christ on this Lenten journey,
let us see your way more clearly

All: and follow your way more faithfully.

Prayer

Gracious God, may our rich feast be an open ear to listen. May our rich feast be a song that springs forth from the heart. May our rich feast be a word of praise on our lips. May our rich feast grow as a gift, simple nutrients slowly nourishing the soil, patient as a tree. May we trust that the fruit will come. May we trust that Jesus is providing—the earth, the water, the air, the ear, the heart, the lips, the hands, the tools for the work—and that we are invited to take our place at the table, a table set long before our arrival. Amen.

Song

Children's time

Scripture Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8

Sermon Continually Thirsty, What to Drink?

Reflection questions

- How are you receiving God's gift of grace today?
- When do you have an opportunity to pass along God's grace by allowing others (and yourself) the time they need to grow and change?

Songs

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

After prayer times ***“Lord, in your mercy”*** respond with ***“hear our prayer.”***

Offering Song

Announcements –

Sending From this time and place into whatever awaits, may you follow God's way of receiving. May you let go of your feelings of unworthiness and accept God's abundant gifts. As you go, know that our God of the wilderness remains with you on the way.

Sending Song The Lord Lift You Up VT#832

Online giving option: <https://tinyurl.com/donateWSMC>

Luke 13:6 Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷ So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

⁸ “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

In 2021 Willow Springs had the “Dare to Serve” event via Zoom to raise money for MCC through the Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale. This year we are planning a similar but simplified event: “Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale Offerings” on Friday, March 25.

In this year's event one might offer goods (such as baked goods or hand crafted items), or services (e.g. help with electrical wiring); these items will be auctioned. One can also offer to do something on our Zoom get-together (perhaps read a children's book or play a musical instrument) and people can offer monetary donations in response to the performance.

Think about what you have to offer. Consider asking others to offer something you might like to bid on or see. Please inform Ellen (asledz5@gmail.com, 815-915-7376 text, 815-646-4809 voice, or even in person) of what you would like to offer by Wednesday, March 23. Let's have one more Zoom party - Friday, March 25 at 7:00!